



MIX-ENABLE

STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE AND ROBUST
ORGANIC MIXED LIVESTOCK FARMING

MIX-ENABLE IS A CORE ORGANIC PROJECT COORDINATED BY INRA. IT HAS 10 PARTNERS FROM 7 EU COUNTRIES. THE PROJECT STARTED ON APRIL 2018 AND WILL LAST 3 YEARS.

WHAT ?

Producing references to shed light on the potential of organic mixed livestock farms as well as pathways to convert from a specialized farm

Exploring ways to manage mixed livestock farms in Europe

Assessing the economic, ecological and social performances of these farms, their sustainability and robustness to adverse events

WHO ?



HOW ?

MIX-ENABLE will produce new knowledge on how to manage organic mixed livestock farms in Europe towards sustainability and robustness in response to climatic and economic variability.

This will be achieved by:

Characterizing organic mixed livestock farms in Europe, in particular the level of integration between farm components.

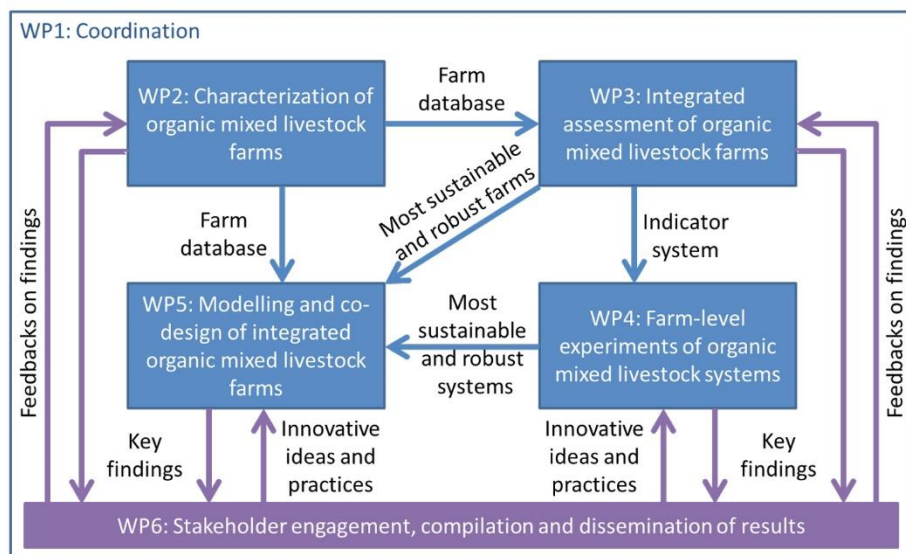
Conducting farm-level experiments comparing specialized and mixed livestock production, with a special focus on the technical aspects of animal husbandry (e.g. use and modalities of pasture or animal health practices).

Integrating the knowledge developed on organic mixed livestock farms in models that can simulate their performances

Co-designing with farmers more integrated, sustainable and robust organic mixed livestock farming systems. This task will also deal with the pathways from specialized towards organic mixed livestock farms (barriers, incentives).

METHOD

This work will be done over 6 work packages:



Mix-enable implements a participatory approach through several of its tasks, such as:

- Co-design workshops to identify innovative forms of organic mixed livestock farms
- Dissemination actions through farmer field days.

EXPECTED IMPACT

MIX-ENABLE will provide highlights on how mixed farms can contribute to:

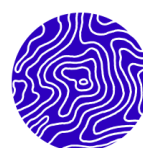
- improve the use of manure
- recycling of organic matter
- increase feed autonomy
- generate higher economic efficiency in saving production costs and reducing risks in regards to market fluctuations
- increase the robustness of the farm to adverse economic events and to stabilize farmer income
- improve nutrient cycling
- efficient pasture use and enhanced pasture productivity
- and parasite management



OUTCOMES

- A guide on best management practices in organic mixed livestock farming
- Advantages, drawbacks and challenges of mixed livestock farming in Europe
- Comparison of farm structures, management practices and sustainability of specialized and mixed livestock farms in Europe
- Conditions for the sustainability and robustness of organic mixed livestock farming in Europe
- Identification of patterns for integration of mixed livestock in organic mixed livestock farms in Europe
- Comparison between mixed livestock farming strategies in response to climatic and economic variability
- Farmer-based innovative options for organic mixed livestock farming in Europe

CONTACT



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